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FOREIGN AND INSULAR.

AUSTRALIA.

SYDNEY—Examination of Rats for Plague Infection.

The following information was taken from bulletins issued by the department of health of New South Wales:

During the month of February, 1911, there were destroyed 5,580 rats, of which 1,745 were examined for plague infection. No plague-infected rats were found.

CANADA.

FORT WILLIAM—Smallpox Outbreak.

The American consul general at Winnipeg reported April 6 an outbreak of smallpox at Fort William, Ontario, which is assuming epidemic form.

CHINA.

AMOY—Plague in Vicinity.

Acting Asst. Surg. Bonthius reports February 27 the appearance of plague in the vicinity of Amoy.

HARBIN—Status of Plague—Plague Conference.

Consul Greene reports March 7:

During the week ended March 4, the mortality from plague in Harbin and Fuchiatien continued to show a decline, the average number of deaths per day being 7.1 in Harbin and 1.8 in Fuchiatien, as compared with 11.9 and 8.7, respectively, in the previous week. On March 5 there were no deaths in Fuchiatien, and no plague cases were left in the hospitals.

The deaths for the week according to the Chinese and Russian official returns were as follows:

	Feb. 26 to Mar. 4, 1911.	Total since beginning Nov. 8, 1910.
Harbin.....	139	2 1,508
Bodies found outside city.....	11
Fuchiatien.....	13	5,146
Total.....	63	6,654

¹ 3 Europeans.

² 40 Europeans.

This is the corrected total according to the Chinese official figures. A large number of infected houses have already been burned by the Chinese authorities. The number of bodies burned at Fuchiatien up to February 22, 1911, was 4,606.

There is still no reliable news from neighboring cities, though it is generally believed that the mortality is diminishing in most cases.

Aigun and Taiheho, which are situated opposite Blagovestchensk, are reported to be still free from plague, but the Russian authorities on the northern bank of the Amur are maintaining a very strict quarantine against persons from the Chinese side. Absolutely no communication is allowed, and it is stated that 2,500 Chinese residents of Blagovestchensk have been expelled on account of the fear that plague might find a foothold among them. Ninguta is also reported to be now free from plague.

On the whole, therefore, the regions bordering on the Russian Provinces are in a comparatively satisfactory condition.

The commissioner of Chinese customs at Harbin is preparing to establish quarantine stations at various places along the Russo-Chinese border, but has not yet succeeded in finding suitable physicians to undertake the work. The most important point at present would seem to be Aigun, where it is proposed to establish an inspection station at a pass about 50 miles from the river. On account of the nature of the country on either side it is thought that travelers will prefer to submit to a medical examination there rather than make the long and difficult detour which would be necessary to evade it.

Resolutions of the Irkutsk Plague Conference.

Consul Greene further reported March 10:

The Irkutsk plague conference met February 20-27 to discuss the precautionary measures which should be taken on account of the plague epidemic in Manchuria. The conference was attended by representatives from the Amur Provinces, the Trans-Baikal and Irkutsk Provinces, the Chinese Eastern Railway, and other interested bodies, such as the immigration bureau.

RESOLUTIONS OF THE IRKUTSK PLAGUE CONFERENCE.

GENERAL RULES.

1. All persons from infected places, including Chinese laborers, shall only be allowed to enter the Russian Empire through observation stations.
2. At these stations Chinese shall be subjected to 5 days' quarantine, exceptions for certain Chinese officials being made only by special permission of the sanitary commission. Other persons will be passed after a medical examination, if the presence of sick persons among them does not make other measures necessary.
3. Chinese laborers who have passed the quarantine should have cords fastened around their wrists with a lead seal, in accordance with the practice already enforced in certain infected places, and all persons should be warned not to employ strange Chinese who are not provided with such tokens. Chinese merchants and others belonging to the privileged classes should have a note made on their passports certifying that they have passed the quarantine.
4. Convicts should be removed from infected regions. The movement of emigrant trains should be allowed upon observance of the measures set forth below.
5. Merchandise from infected places may be admitted in accordance with existing rules. Beans and grain should only be imported in new bags. Tarabagan skins should be disinfected unless it is positively shown by a consular certificate that they are from an uninfected region.
6. Letters and parcels from infected places should be dispatched, the letters and outer coverings of parcels at the places from which they are dispatched, and the contents of parcels at the frontier stations.
7. Currency sent from infected places or issued by official and public institutions in such places should be disinfected, except when exemption is specially granted by the sanitary commission.
8. The general rule is established that Chinese dying of the plague should be cremated.